

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 1, 2006, has been received and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. THE PATENTABILITY REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-65 AND 67-68

On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-65 and 67-68 were objected to under 35 USC §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

A. Claims 37, 50, 54-57, 61, 63, 65 and 67-68

Regarding claims 37, 50, 54-57, 61, 63, 65 and 67-68, the Examiner alleges that the "means for" claims 37, 50, 54, 61, 63 and 65 and the "computer readable medium" claims 55-57 and 67-68 are not tangible as the claims are not limited to tangible products or mediums. In particular, the Examiner alleges that "[a]signal has no physical structure and does not itself perform any useful, concrete and tangible result."

Regarding claims 37, 50, 54, 61, 63 and 65, Applicant respectfully submits that various "means for" recitations have proper support in the specification. For example, claim 37 recites "means for receiving and concentrating events from a

managed object associated with the component." The
specification, for example, provides:

The invention is related in one regard to the use of a computer system for managing a component-based system, using computer, network and other resources. According to one embodiment of the invention, the management of the component-based system is provided via the computer system in response to the processor executing one or more sequences of one or more instructions contained in main memory.

Such instructions may be read into main memory from another computer-readable medium, such as the storage device. Execution of the sequences of instructions contained in main memory causes the processor to perform the process steps described herein. One or more processors in a multi-processing arrangement may also be employed to execute the sequences of instructions contained in main memory. In alternative embodiments, hard wired circuitry may be used in place of or in combination with software instructions to implement the invention. Thus, embodiments of the invention are not limited to specific combination of hardware circuitry and software.

See Page 3, lines 6-18.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above excerpt makes clear that one embodiment of the claimed systems and methods is implemented on a tangible "combination of hardware circuitry and software," such as, for example, "one or more processors in a multi-processing arrangement . . . employed to execute the sequences of instructions contained in main memory." Applicant respectfully submits that such an embodiment provides "tangible" proper support for the various "means for" recitations of the

pending claims. Applicant further respectfully submits that the respective functions of the claimed "means for" recitations are similarly disclosed throughout the specification. Accordingly, Application respectfully submits that the various "means for" recitations of claims 37, 50, 54, 61, 63 and 65 are proper.

Regarding claims 55-57 and 67-68, the Examiner asserts that "a signal has no physical structure and does not itself produce any useful, concrete and tangible result." Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in an effort to properly address the Examiner's assertion, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no signal limitation on patentable subject matter as long as the claimed invention as a whole accomplishes a practical application. That is, it must produce a "useful, concrete and tangible result." State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc., 149 F.3d 1368, 1373, 47 USPQ2d 1596, 1601-02. Claims 55-57 and 67-68 are all clearly directed to practical applications that produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

B. Claims 1-27, 37, 50, 54, 58-59, 61 and 65

Regarding claims 1-27, 37, 50, 54, 58-59, 61 and 65, the Examiner alleges that the system/apparatus claims are not tangible as the claims do not appear to require any hardware and could simply be implemented in software *per se*, thus the

described functionality of the claims has no manner of being physically carries out.

Applicant respectfully submits that the excerpt from the specification provided above in connection with the patentability rejection of claims 37, 50, 54, 61, 63 and 65 clearly demonstrates that the claimed systems and methods may be implemented using a tangible "combination of hardware circuitry and software." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the systems/apparatus claims are proper.

C. Claims 28-36, 38-49, 51-53, 60 and 62-64

Regarding claims 28-36, 38-49, 51-53, 60 and 62-64, the Examiner alleges that the method claims are not tangible as the claims do not appear to require any hardware and could simply be implemented in software *per se*, thus the described functionality of the claims has no manner of being physically carries out.

Applicant respectfully submits that the excerpt from the specification provided above in connection with the patentability rejection of claims 37, 50, 54, 61, 63 and 65 clearly demonstrates that the claimed systems and methods may be implemented using a tangible "combination of hardware circuitry and software." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the method claims are proper.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned patentability rejections of claims 1-65 and 67-68 be withdrawn.

II. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6-11, 13, 19-29, 33-41, 45-51 and 53-68

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-11, 13, 19-29, 33-41, 45-51 and 53-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Svedberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,408,218). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the Patent Office bears the burden of presenting at least a prima facie case of anticipation. In re Sun, 31 USPQ2d 1451, 1453 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (unpublished). Anticipation requires that a prior art reference disclose, either expressly or under the principles of inherency, each and every element of the claimed invention. Id. "In addition, the prior art reference must be enabling." Akzo N.V. v. U.S. International Trade Commission, 808 F.2d 1471, 1479, 1 USPQ2d 1241, 1245 (Fed. Cir. 1986), cert. denied, 482 U.S. 909 (1987). That is, the prior art reference must sufficiently describe the claimed invention so as to have placed the public in possession of it. In re Donohue, 766 F.2d 531, 533, 226 USPQ 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

In contrast to the pending rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that Svedberg does not teach or suggest "a management core providing a managed object view of each managed object representation and allowing manipulation of management attributes of each managed object representation through at least one predetermined event policy, *wherein the management core includes a management event concentrator for receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representations associated with the application components,*" as expressly recited in claim 1. Each of independent claims 21, 28, 37, 38, 50, 51, and 54-57 also includes a similar feature or functionality.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references - alone or in combination - teach or suggest a management core that includes a management event concentrator for receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representations associated with the application components. Neither Svedberg nor Dev, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests any feature or functionality that receives and concentrates events from the managed object representations associated with the application components.

Further, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's "Response to Arguments" on Page 24 of the Office Action wherein the Examiner alleges as follows:

First, Svedberg demonstrated an element for receiving and concentrating events, a management event concentrator as termed by Applicant (Svedberg: column 11, lines 16-34). The cited art's operation support system (OSS) provides this functionality by receiving alarms in a centralized fashion (concentrating). Under the broadest reasonable interpretation of claim language, Svedberg is clearly read upon. Further, the originally filed disclosure offers little to further define the concentrator beyond what is stated.

Second, management modules (in communication with the concentrator) are clearly provided by Svedberg through the elements of functionality being used by the operation support system (column 11, lines 25-34).

In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that Svedberg does not teach or suggest "a management core providing a managed object view of each managed object representation and allowing manipulation of management attributes of each managed object representation through at least one predetermined event policy, **wherein the management core includes a management event concentrator for receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representations associated with the application components,**" or, as the Examiner describes it "an element for receiving and concentrating events." The excerpt of Svedberg which purports to disclose this feature or functionality merely discloses an OSS that receives alarm notifications, but does not

teach or suggest that the OSS receives and concentrates events from the managed object representations associated with the application components:

Error detections are modelled in the MO that represents the supervised resource, not the supervising resource. For example, when a computer hardware unit is executing software that supervises a signalling link, a failure of the link is reported as an error detection in the link MO, not in the software or hardware MOs.

The operation support system receives the alarm notifications and uses them for purposes such as:

1. Initiating repair actions such as replacing the faulty equipment indicated in the alarm notification;
2. Initiating network reconfiguration. If an alarm notification indicates a malfunctioning line of communication, the management system may change routing information in the network in order to bypass the faulty line; and
3. Building a database. The management system may be designed to merely record the status of the various communications lines for future analysis.

See Svedberg, Col. 11, lines 16-34).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the above excerpt - or any other part of Svedberg - fails to teach or suggest "a management core providing a managed object view of each managed object representation and allowing manipulation of management attributes of each managed object representation through at least one predetermined event policy, **wherein the management core includes a management event concentrator for**

receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representations associated with the application components. To the extent that the Examiner construes the OSS as being the claimed management event concentrator, Applicant submits there is no teaching or suggestion in Svedberg that the OSS receives and concentrates events from the managed object representations associated with the application components, as expressly required by the independent claims.

Claims 2-20, 22-27, 29-36, 39-49, and 52-53 are dependent upon independent claim 1, 21, 28, or 37. Thus, since independent claims 1, 21, 28 and 37 should be allowable as discussed above, claims 2-20, 22-27, 29-36, 39-49, and 52-53 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1. Moreover, these claims recite additional features which are not claimed, disclosed, or even suggested by the cited references taken either alone or in combination. For example, claim 22 recites "wherein each managed object representation comprises a managed object interpreter and at least one management component, each management component including one of the management attributes." Applicant respectfully submits that Svedberg does not teach or suggest a managed object representation, much less a managed object representation comprising a managed object

interpreter and at least one management component, each management component including one of the management attributes." The excerpt cited by the Examiner as purportedly disclosing this feature does not teach or suggest any feature or functionality comprising a managed object representation, much less a managed object representation comprising a managed object interpreter and at least one management component:

The alarm coordination components of each MO are separated into two parts. A general part comprises components that are common to all MOs. An application part is an object-specific part for that particular MO. The application part of an MO monitors the MO and detects internal faults. Events that affect the status of the MO are reported to the general part using methods for error detection and error clearance.

See Svedberg, Col. 11, lines 35-42.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned anticipation rejection of claims 1-3, 6-11, 13, 19-29, 33-41, 45-51 and 53-57 be withdrawn.

III. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 5, 12, 14, 15, 16-18, 30-43, 42-44 and 52

On page 18 of the Office Action, claims 4, 5, 15, 16-18, 42-44 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Svedberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,408,218).

On page 22 of the Office Action, claims 12, 14 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Svedberg et al. and Dev et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,261,044).
These rejections are hereby respectfully traversed.

As stated in MPEP § 2143, to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending obviousness rejection of claims 4, 5, 12, 14, 15, 16-18, 30-43, 42-44 and 52 are overcome by the arguments presented above in connection with claim 1, 21, 28, 37, 38, 50, 51, and 55-57, from which claims 4, 5, 12, 14, 15, 16-18, 30-43, 42-44 and 52 depend.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 4, 5, 12, 14, 15, 16-18, 30-43, 42-44 and 52 be withdrawn.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

1. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a component-based system, comprising:

one or more application components, each of the components associated with a managed object representation comprising management logic of the component; and

a management core providing a managed object view of each managed object representation and allowing manipulation of management attributes of each managed object representation through at least one predetermined event policy, wherein the management core includes a management event concentrator for receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representations associated with the application components,

wherein when a predetermined event is reported in association with one of the components, an associated event policy of the at least one predetermined event policy is performed.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a management framework including the managed object representations and supporting a variety of access mechanisms to the managed object.

3. (**Currently Amended**) The system of claim 2 further

comprising at least one management application associated with the management framework performing management functions on the managed object representation wherein performance of one of the at least one predetermined event policy causes performance of a predetermined one of the at least one management application.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the management attributes comprises component dependency and the at least one management application comprises a dependency management application, the dependency management application causing performance of a second management event policy on a second component dependent on a first component if a first management event policy is performed on the first component.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the first management event policy comprises at least one of: a state change, a status change and an alarm report of the first component.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the management attributes comprise at least one of: ability to provide service, usage of the component, degree to which the component is allowed to provide service, status and alarm attributes.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the

predetermined event is a fault and the associated event policy is a fault management event policy.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the fault management event policy comprises current status maintenance.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the predetermined event is an alarm and the associated event policy is an alarm reporting function.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the management attributes comprise component dependency status.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one metric associated to the managed object representation wherein the at least one metric may be used to measure performance attributes of the component.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one predetermined event and the associated event policy may be edited.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one predetermined event and the associated event policy are configured into the managed object view of the component.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one predetermined event and the associated event policy

are configured using a management editor tool.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the management attributes comprise state and component dependency wherein a predetermined dependency event policy is performed on a first component based on the state of a second component upon which the first component is dependent.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the dependency event policy comprises startup of the first component.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the dependency event policy comprises shutdown of the first component.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the dependency event policy comprises rerouting the dependency of the first component.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is a telephony network.

20. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system is a hybrid network.

21. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a component-based system, comprising:

one or more application components, each of the components associated with a managed object representation comprising management logic of the component; and

a management framework including the managed object representations and a management event concentrator and allowing manipulation of management attributes of each managed object representation through at least one predetermined event policy, wherein the management event concentrator for receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representations associated with the application components.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein each managed object representation comprises a managed object interpreter and at least one management component, each management component including one of the management attributes.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein each managed object representation in the system sends management events to the management event concentrator.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 further comprising at least one manager module coupled to the management event concentrator wherein each manager module monitors a specific management attribute for the system.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising

a management layer including the at least one manager module and at least one node specific management application programming interface ("API") wherein each manager module reports management information to a node specific element management system through the node specific API.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein each managed object representation and each management component comprise an identifier to allow the management system to access specific management components.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the identifiers are mapped into a single tree structure.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of managing a component-based system comprising:

retrieving a record associated with a component over a management event concentrator, wherein the management event concentrator receives and concentrates events from at least one managed object associated with the application components;

establishing component events for managing the component;

selecting at least one event policy from a event policies storage area; and

associating at least one component event to each selected

event policy to configure the component creating a network application, which may include additional configured components,

wherein the associated event policy is performed in the component based system if the at least one component event occurs.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising storing the network application in an application model storage area.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein associating the component event to the selected event policy comprises associating the component event to the selected event policy using a management editor tool.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising editing the at least one event.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising editing the associated event policy.

33. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising associating the at least one component to a managed object representation in a management framework wherein the managed object representation is associated with the associated event policy.

34. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising associating the component with a management framework coupled to at least one management application performing a management functions wherein performance of the associated event policy causes performance of a predetermined one of the at least one management application.

35. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising manipulating management attributes of the component through the associated event policy wherein the management attributes comprise at least one of: ability to provide service, usage of the component, degree to which the component is allowed to provide service, status and alarm attributes.

36. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the event policy comprises one of: a state change, a status change and an alarm report.

37. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a component-based system comprising:

means for retrieving a record associated with a component;

means for receiving and concentrating events from a managed object associated with the component;

means for establishing component events for managing the component;

means for selecting at least one event policy from a event policies storage area; and

means for associating at least one component event to each selected event policy to configure the component creating a network application, which may include additional configured components,

means for wherein the associated event policy is performed in the component based system if the at least one component event occurs.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of managing a component-based system, comprising:

a) receiving a report of an event from at least one component;

b) performing a management event policy associated with an event if the event matches an event stored in a managed object representation of the component, wherein the event is received via a management event concentrator for receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representation of the component; and

c) managing the at least one component using the result of the management event policy performed.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein performing the management event policy comprises manipulating management attributes of the component.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein manipulating the management attributes of the component comprises manipulating indicators of at least one of ability to provide service, usage of the component, degree to which the component is allowed to provide service, status and alarm attributes.

41. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein managing the at least one component comprises performing a management application if the result of the management event policy performed matches a predetermined management event policy result.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the management event policy is a first management event policy and the component is a first component, and performing the management application comprises performing a second management event policy on a second component if the first management event policy is performed on the first component upon which the second component is dependent.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein

the step of performing a management event policy comprises performing first and second management event policies associated with the event if the event matches an event stored in a managed object representation of the component, wherein the first management policy comprises performing at least one of a state change, a status change, an alarm report, a startup and a shutdown of a first component.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the second management event policy comprises performing one of a state change, a status change, an alarm report, a startup, a shutdown and rerouting the dependency of a second component.

45. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein managing the at least one component comprises storing the result of the component event policy performed in a management aggregator and performing a management event policy when the number of component event policy results stored in the management aggregator reaches a predetermined value.

46. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the event comprises a fault and performing the associated management event policy comprises performing a fault management event policy.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46 wherein performing a fault management event policy comprises updating a status of

the component.

48. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the event comprises an alarm and performing the event policy comprises reporting the alarm.

49. (Original) The method of claim 38 further comprising measuring performance attributes of the component using the result of the management event policy.

50. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a component-based system, comprising:

means for receiving a report of an event from at least one component;

means for performing a management event policy associated with the event if the event matches an event stored in a managed object representation of the component; and

means for receiving and concentrating events from the managed object representation associated with the component;

means for managing the at least one component using the result of the management event policy performed.

51. (Previously Presented) A method of managing a component based system comprising:

registering at least one manager module to monitor a

management event for the network;

receiving an event report from a first component, the event report being received from a management event concentrator, wherein the management event concentrator receives and concentrates events from a managed object representation associated with the first component;

performing an event policy associated with the event if the event matches a predetermined event policy triggering event;

transmitting a result of the event policy performance to the at least one manager module if the result of the event policy performance matches the management event monitored by the at least one manager module; and

using the result of the event policy performance to manage at least the first component and a second component associated with the first component.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51 further comprising:

connecting to a first managed object associated with the first component and a second managed object associated with the second component;

associating at least one event policy with at least one event of each of the first component and the second component;

and

starting up the first component through the first managed object and the second component through the second managed object.

53. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein receiving the event report comprises receiving the event report from a context-specific logic through a context-free management logic of the component.

54. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a component based system comprising:

means for registering at least one manager module to monitor a management event for the network;

means for receiving an event report from a first component, the event report being received from a management event concentrator, wherein the management event concentrator receives and concentrates events from a managed object representation associated with the first component;

means for performing an event policy associated with the event if the event matches a predetermined event policy triggering event;

means for transmitting a result of the event policy

performance to the at least one manager module if the result of the event policy performance matches the management event monitored by the at least one manager module; and

means for using the result of the event policy performance to manage at least the first component and a second component associated with the first component.

55. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium storing computer readable code executable to perform a method for managing a component-based system comprising:

retrieving a record associated with a component;

establishing component events for managing the component;

selecting at least one event policy from a event policies storage area; and

associating at least one component event to each selected event policy to configure the component creating a network application, which may include additional configured components,

wherein the associated event policy is performed in the component based system if the at least one component event occurs;

managing component events through at least one manager

module configured to communicate with at least one managed object representation associated with the component, the communication occurring through a management event concentrator, wherein the management event concentrator receives and concentrates events from at the least one managed object representation associated with the component.

56. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium storing computer readable code executable to perform a method for managing a component-based system, including at least one telephony resource, comprising:

a) receiving a report of an event from at least one component, the report of the event being transmitted through a management event concentrator that receives and concentrates events from components;

b) performing a management event policy associated with the event if the event matches a stored event; and

c) managing the at least one component using the result of the management event policy performed.

57. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium storing computer readable code executable to perform a method for managing a component-based system comprising:

registering at least one manager module to monitor a management event for the network;

receiving an event report from a first component, the report of the event being transmitted through a management event concentrator that receives and concentrates events from components;

performing an event policy associated with the event if the event matches a predetermined event policy triggering event;

transmitting a result of the event policy performance to the at least one manager module if the result of the event policy performance matches the management event monitored by the at least one manager module; and

using the result of the event policy performance to manage at least the first component and a second component associated with the first component.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one manager module is configured to communicate with each management object through the management event concentrator.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein each management object is configured to communicate with at least one manager module through the management event

concentrator.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of managing component events through at least one manager module configured to communicate with at least one managed object associated with the component, the communication occurring through the management event concentrator.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37 further comprising means for managing component events through the management event concentrator.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the step of managing the at least one component is performed by at least one manager module configured to communicate with the at least one component through the management event concentrator.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein management of the at least one component occurs through the management event concentrator.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the at least one manager module is configured to communicate with the first and second components through the management event concentrator.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54 wherein the at least one manager module is configured to communicate with the first and second components through the management event concentrator.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 56 wherein management of the at least one component occurs through the management event concentrator.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 57 wherein the at least one manager module is configured to communicate with the first and second components through the management event concentrator.